



A traditional Afghan fortress



Paghman District, Kabul Province



A former Bazaar of Paghman which used to house 200 shops. One of the more crowded bazaars of Kabul Province.



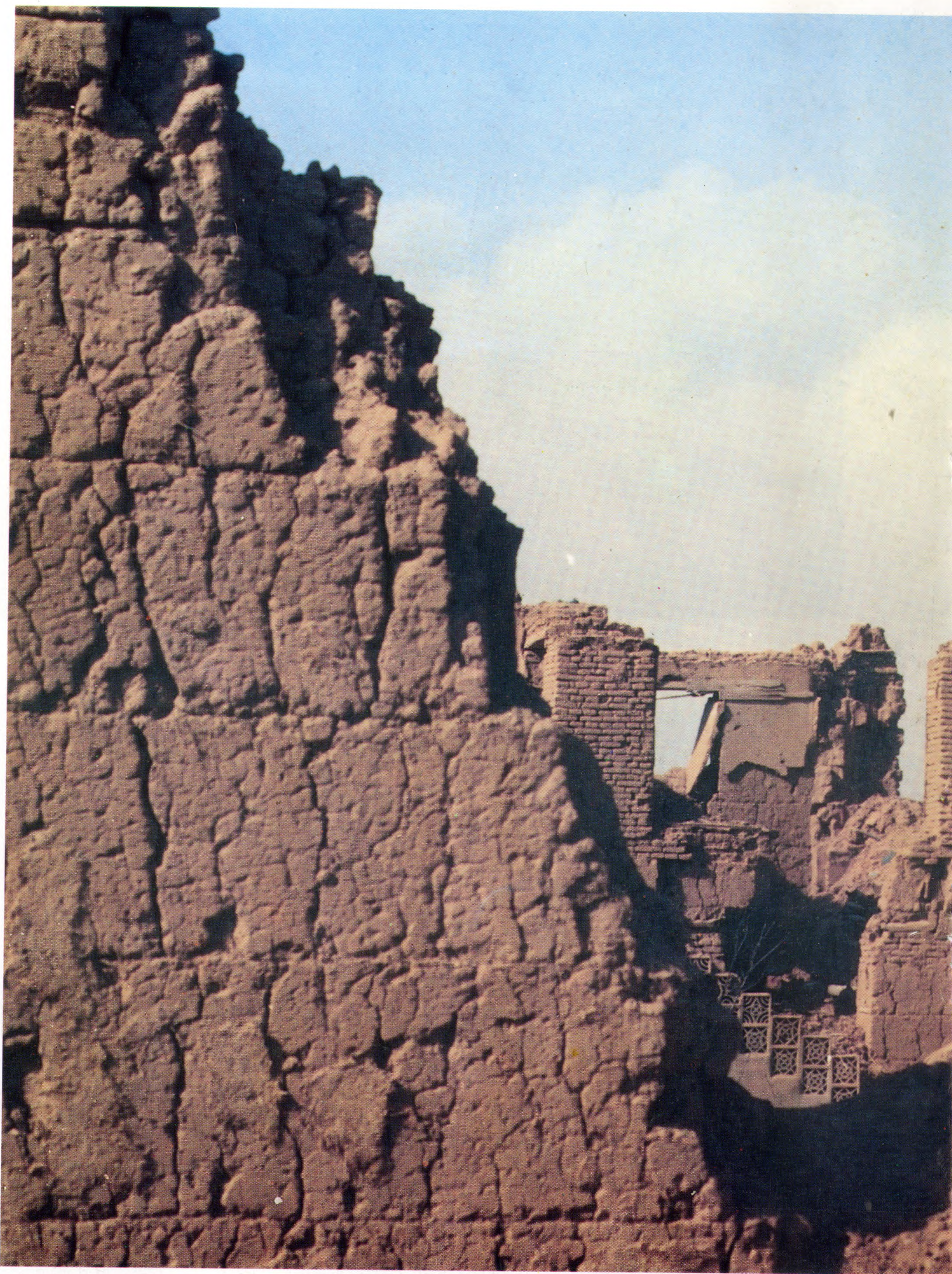
One of many villages destroyed in Logar province.



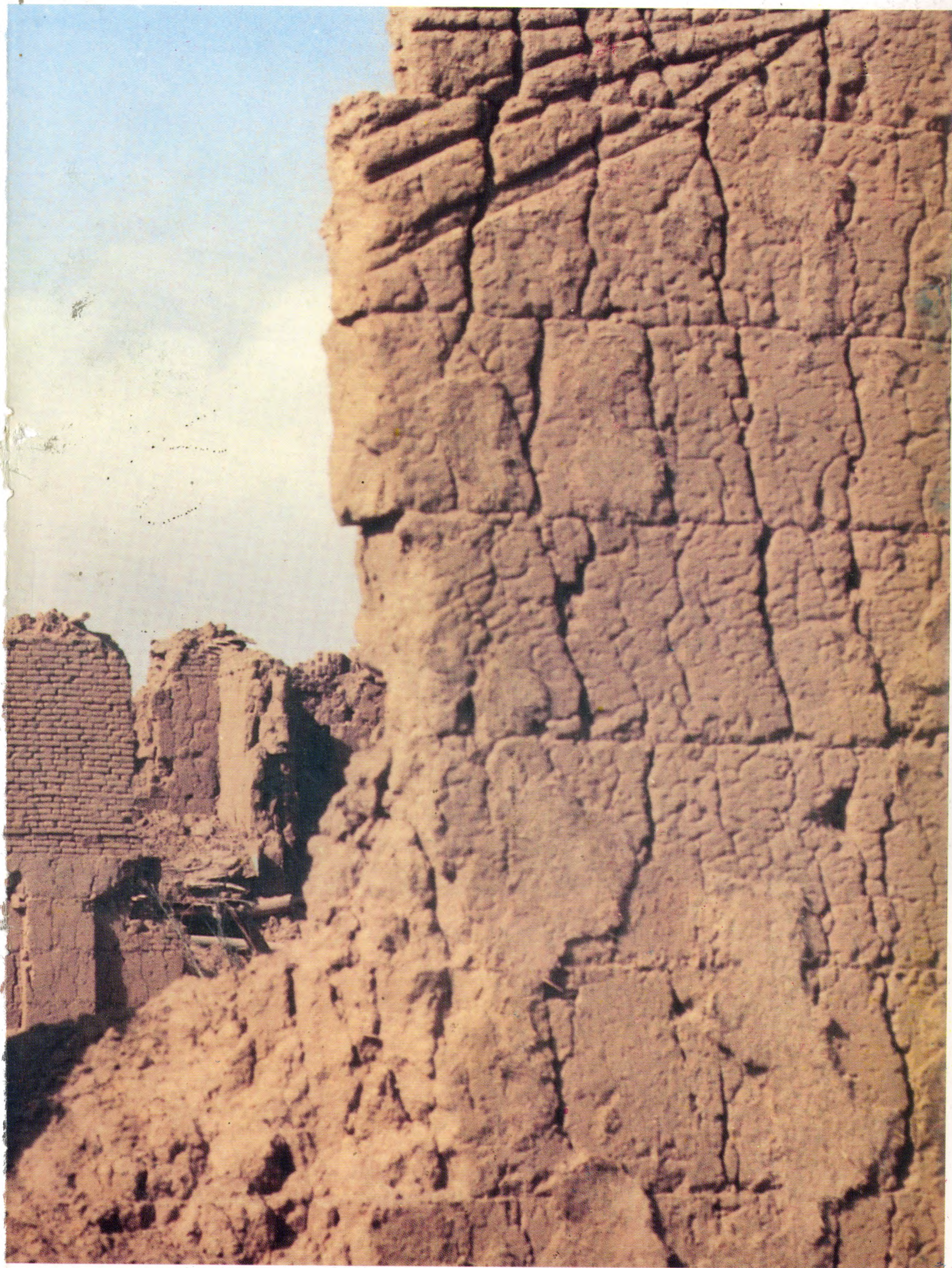
A Mujahid stands amidst the remains of a village



Village house of a wealthy family



Some large houses constructed from mud with running walls of 18 fol
high. Each fold is 110cm high and 200cm wide. This type of constructi



takes two years, where 30 labours work daily. Now, these buildings have been completely destroyed by Soviet tanks in a moment.



Congregational mosque, Herat province.

As communist ideology is against every religion' the soviets were not concerned about destroying places of worship wherever they found them



A section of burned Holy Koran, Bamiyan province.



Prayer in the field



Village mosque where local children used to learn Koran.



Children learning Koran



PREFACE

Situated in the heart of Asia, Afghanistan is a beautiful, lovely and attractive country. Magnificent waterfalls, forests and high mountains with steep river valleys have further added to the beauty of the Afghan land.

Similarly, from a strategic and geographical point of view, Afghanistan has particular importance for Asia and also for the Middle East. Historically, the people of Afghanistan have experienced many internal disturbances and civil wars. The country has also been invaded many times, in the course of its history, by foreign invaders; but the Afghan nation has never bowed to alien powers.

Some philosophers and great thinkers, through the ages, are of the opinion that the historical, geographical and strategic position of Afghanistan has great impact on its inhabitants. Afghans are therefore, valiant, patriotic and freedom loving people. Whenever their country has been invaded by any foreign aggressor , the Afghan nation has courageously fought and protected the freedom and integrity of their country. The enemie's dream for the occupation of Afghanistan has never come true.

The Afghans are strong and consistant believers in Islam and have always resisted and fought against outside aggressors. They have offered every kind of sacrifice and have never tolerated a foreign yoke and alien ideologies prejudice to Islam and their country. Without any doubt, the Afghan nation has had a bright history. It has rich culture and tradition and has great love for Islam and for the freedom of their country.



Destroyed mosque, Kandahar province





Famous Minarets from Herat, prior to 1978.

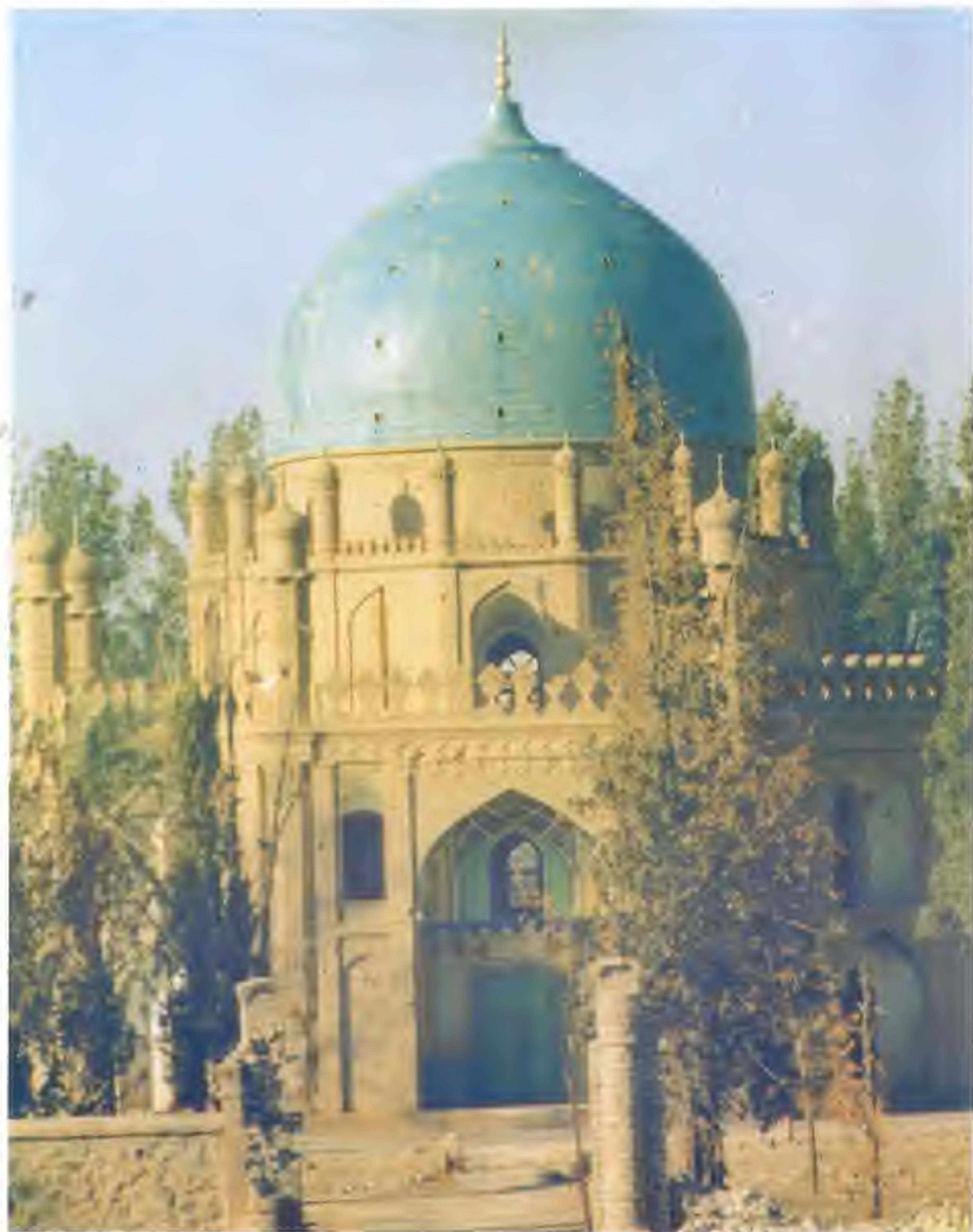




Herat Minarets after 1978.



Famous Historical Rock Carving, built in the 5th Century, 54 meters high. Bamyan Province



Historical Tomb of Mirwis Khan Hotak ruler of Afghanistan (1698-1706) initiator of the Afghan Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly).



Kolagu villagers removing dead bodies from bombed houses





People attempting to remove belonging from their destroyed houses.



An interior view of a damaged house





A man removing fallen beams from the ruins of his house, Maidan province.

One of 100 out of 120 houses totally destroyed in the Panjshir valley. residents all fled to Pakistan.

AFGHANISTAN

THE COST OF FREEDOM

Next Issue



Agriculture

Afghanistan, has always remained one of the under-developed countries of the world. The people are mostly dependant upon agriculture and livestock which are still the main source of their economy.

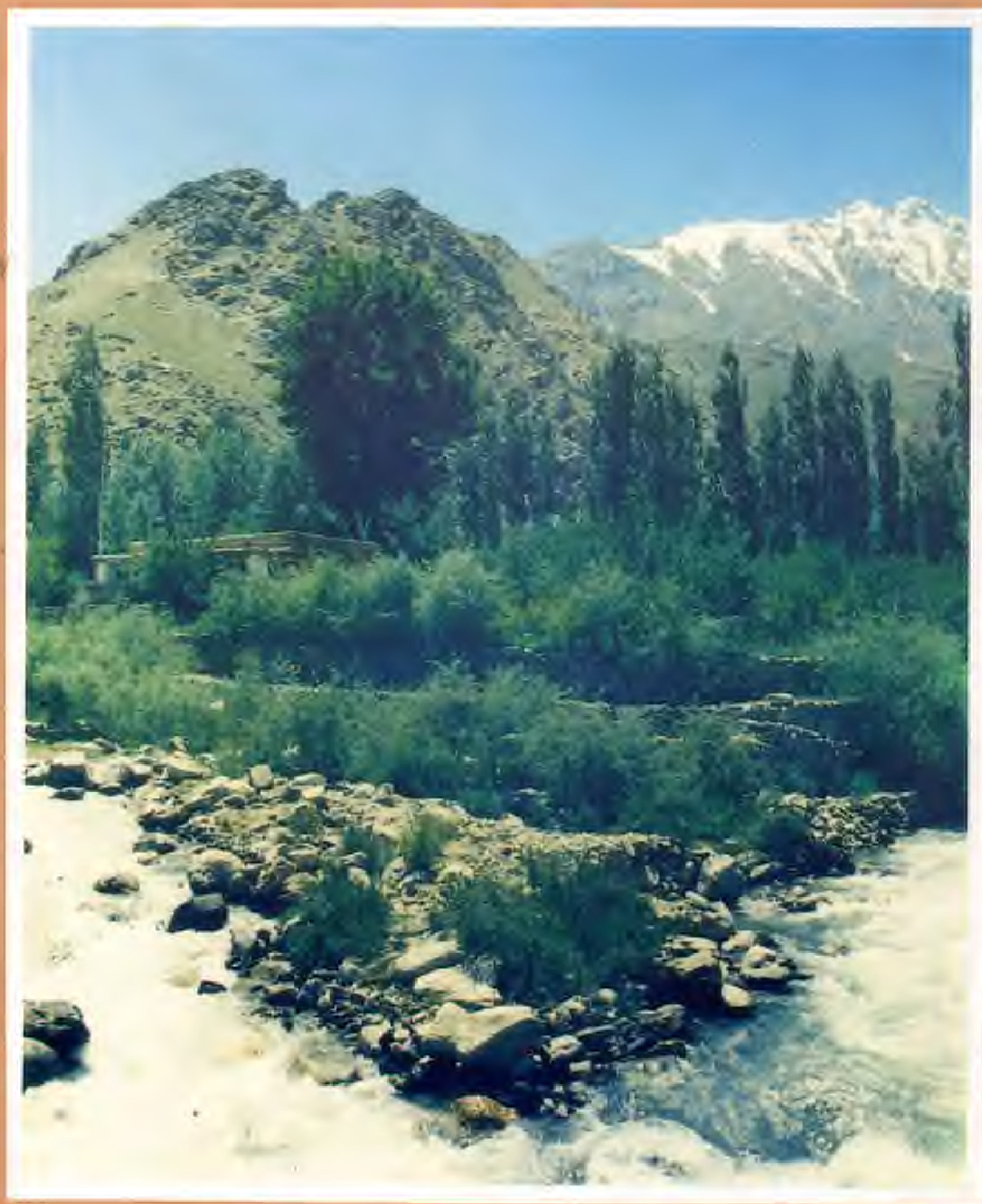
In social, political, educational and economic sectors, the Afghans have had many problems. For instance, there were just two universities, a few educational institutions and limited numbers of hospitals throughout the whole of Afghanistan. Moreover, in some districts and sub-districts even basic educational and transport facilities were not available to the people. In many provinces there were the lack of secondary schools and laboratories, along with a lack of professional staff and teachers. Most of the people were either illiterate or semi-literate. To maintain their lives and to support their families, they used to go for manual work abroad. Their houses, dwellings and villages were usually constructed from mud, stones or sun-dried bricks. But insipite of all these problems of hardships, they were leading simple and informal, but happy lives. They were proud of their history, culture and tradition, and struggled for the further development and progress of their country.

However, the plan and program undertaken by the Afghan nation for the construction of their country and for the creation of a peaceful and congenial environment for their countrymen, was derailed by the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan.

In this invasion, more than one million Afghans were killed, five million fled their homeland seeking refuge in the neighboring countries of Pakistan and



Hada village, Ningarhar Province completely destroyed. Some residents were killed, while most fled to Pakistan



Badakhshan province.



AMRC FACILITIES

VIDEO FACILITIES

Sony M3A Cameras WIU-Matic (PAL)

Panasonic M5 Camcorders (PAL, NTSC)

Panasonic M7 Camcorders (PAL)

VHS to VHS Edit/Dub

VHS to U-Mtic edit/dub (lowband, highband)

U-Matic to U-Matic edit/dub

Character generator

Audio booth (Mixer)

Revox quarter - inch, reel to reel audio deck

VIDEO MIXER (JVC)

VIDEO COLOUR CORECTOR (JVC)

TIMEBASE CORECTOR (FOR-A) and LIGHT FACILITIES

PHOTO FACILITIES: Pentax K1000 35mm Cameras
NIKON 35MM Cameras

Black and white colour processing and printing (5x7) (8x10)(6x8) sizes contact sheet system.
Slide Developing and Mounting.

All photographs published in this magazine have been taken by photographers of the Photography department, of AMRC.



Newly arriving refugees cross the border into Pakistan.



Iran, while still others migrated to the United States and Europe. Villages, towns, houses, schools, hospitals, Mosques, historical monuments, roads canals etc. were ruthlessly bombarded and completely ruined. This destruction of the country is still continuing today, by the Soviets and their puppet regime in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Media Resource Center, at this critical juncture of war, began its professional activities. At this most difficult moment, inspite of a lack of adequate facilities, AMRC succeeded in furnishing reliable, and accurate information, through photographs, films and reports to the world's media concerning this war. The Afghan Media Resource Center has fulfilled its moral obligations and responsibilities towards the history, culture and people of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Muslim nation has not yet accomplished their task of regaining the freedom of their country. War is still continuing in Afghanistan; even as rapid political changes take place throughout the world. In this new era of political upheaval, the Afghan Media Resource Centre has undertaken some new plans and programs within the framework of its continuing policy for progress and development in Afghanistan.

Due to poor facilities, the events in Afghanistan have not been properly portrayed. The people in most of the countries of the world are not certain about the problem of Afghanistan. In some countries, this problem is examined and interpreted according to their own thinking, while in others they have different views in regard to the development in Afghanistan.

Today, some countries who have supported Afghanistan in the past years, have now turned their attention toward the global political developments; and gradually have withdrawn their interests in the Afghan problem. These nations, however, should not forget that these current political changes sweeping the world were the direct result of the Afghan resistance and their struggle against the Soviet invaders. The world must therefore be proud of the Afghan nation for creating the awarness and the spirit of uprising among the nations against communist suppression. The fact should also not be denied that before the Afghan resistance and uprising no other nation had ever successfully forced the Soviets out of a country once they had occupied. Upon seeing this, other nations caught the vision and dream that they too could free themselves from communist oppression.

To keep the world accurately informed as to what has actually happened in Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion, the Afghan Media Resource Center's Photography department will be publishing a pictorial magazine, in the English language, once every two months, under the title of "The Cost of Freedom". Photographs will be selected from its collection of 80,000 photographs housed in our photo archives. The collection of AMRC photographs are mainly related to five catagories. The first Catagory is the distruction of villages, towns, houses, mosques, roads etc. The second Catagory is of agriculature, livestock and landscapes. The third catagory is centered around education. The fourth Catagory is of mines planted by Soviet troops throughout Afghanistan and the fifth

Catagory is of communication, historical places and monuments destroyed during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Afghan Media Resource Center has produced these photographs from most of the provinces throughout Afghanistan by qualified photographers trained by this institute.

The Afghan Media Resource Center will publish this pictorial color magazine to let the world know how much damage has been sustained by the Afghan people and their country. Unfortunately, most foreign countries have now developed the idea that after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the Afghan problem has been solved. AMRC is therefore strongly determined to reveal the actual facts concerning the Soviet invasion; and to keep them in the minds of people around the world. The Afghan Media Resource Center would like to draw the attention of all the Muslim Ummah and peace and freedom-loving nations, to the peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem, to the repatriation of the Afghan refugees and to the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

We therefore submit materials and our opinions through this publication in regard to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. We would further request the Muslim ummah and other peace and freedom loving nations to extend their interests and co-operation to the rebuilding of Afghanistan and to the repatriation of the Afghan people to their homeland with honor and dignity, so that peace will once again return to this war torn country.



The Destruction of Afghanistan

The people of Afghanistan, after the coup of April 1978, and the subsequent Soviet military intervention in 1979, have faced unprecidented loss. Most of the Afghan intellectuals and educationalists were arrested, brutally tortured and mercilessly executed, after the coup of 1978. The situation further deteriorated with the Soviet invasion of 1979. The Soviet army killed men, women, children, old people, and in particular the educated. They bombarded villages, towns, cities, schools, hospitals, buildings, roads, canals and houses. Because of this the Afghan people were forced to flee the country and seek refuge in the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran.

The severity of this war waged against the Afghan nation, during the past ten years, has been well stated in a report by the Christian Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany. Published on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Soviet invasion on Afghanistan, it stated, "The Soviet and her puppet regime are fighting in Afghanistan one of the most ruthless, cruel and relentless wars ever fought in the world."

Documents quoting Dr. Karl Froctic, who spent two years as a physician in Afghanistan, published by the Social Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany, stated that, "In Afghanistan there are no villages or towns in the country which have not been bombed by Soviet bombers and helicopter gunships at least once during the years 1982-1986.

The Soviets, under their "Scorched Earth" policy, destroyed villages, towns and dwellings; forcing villagers to take refuge in nearby cities and to seek shelter from the heavy bombardment. Moreover, when these villagers migrated to the cities, they fell under the direct control of the Kabul regime, leaving the Mujahideen unable to conceal themselves in villages where they had previously received support.

Similarly, a report by a Spanish journalist, published in the daily "Ya Nader" on June 19, 1988, wrote of tactics the Soviets used against the Mujahideen. "Soviet troops have started to massacre a population of innocent Afghan villagers. The Soviet troops continue to bombard villages and towns with different types of modern and sophisticated weapons."

According to another report, published by the Swedish Committee in Peshawar, Pakistan, Dr. Azamgul and Mirjram stated that, "The Soviets using air bombardment, most effective tactic for destroying villages, have completely destroyed or damaged more than 53% of the villages. Therefore, 65% of the people of Afghanistan have migrated to the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran."

Before 1986, villagers hid out of fear from harassment and bombardment on their villages, during the days. But by night they were more active in attacking Soviet troops. However, at the end of 1986, when Stinger missiles were supplied to the Mujahideen, they became capable of protecting themselves as well as the villages from the air bombardments of the Soviet forces.

The Stinger missiles further forced the Soviet air-force to withdraw its helicopter-gunships and Jet bombers from performing aerial bombardment. Instead, they started bombing from very high altitudes without ascertaining the target they wanted to bombard. This new tactic of high altitude bombardment, further succeeded in destroying more villages and towns throughout the whole of the country. Since the Soviet invasion and the establishment of a regime in Kabul, there is no doubt that each and every family in Afghanistan has been affected by this event.

The District of Paghman, situated 15km west of Kabul, has experienced the most damage. In this district, where the Mujahideen were more active; launching attacks against the city of Kabul itself, Soviet troops were more severe in their reprisal attacks. It is estimated that 99% of the villages and dwellings in this district have been completely ruined by Soviet forces.

An Afghan journalist, in August 1989 reported from Paghman district, that most of the villages, houses, government residencies, and the bazaar of this valley had been completely razed to dust.

Similarly most of the houses and dwellings in Zargar village of Paghman district were also burnt by Soviet forces in 1986. The momument of Afghanistan Independence, dating back to 1919 has been damaged.

According to a journalist, the district of Paghman has been ruined in such a way that it has become impossible for its inhabitants to live there. The people therefore, have left their homes and villages and have sought refuge in Pakistan.

To protect the movement of Soviet caravans and military convoys, villages and town along the major highways Kabul-Gardez, Kabul-Herat, Kabul-Kunduz, and Kabul-Jalalabad have completely been ruined. Not only the villages along the roadside, but the road itself has also been seriously damaged by Soviet troops.

According to United Nations survey, and report of 1989 during the last 10 years, approximately 2,000 Km (25 percent) of the country's paved roads and 3,000 Km (33 percent) of secondary roads (partly paved) have been damaged and more than 300 bridges have been destroyed. Similarly 3,700 Primary Schools, and higher Secondary schools and most of the Health Centres and mosques throughout Afghanistan have been annihilated

Although, the Soviet troops have withdrawn, the puppet regime is still heavily supported by the Soviets. The war in Afghanistan is still continuing. No proper ways and means have yet been

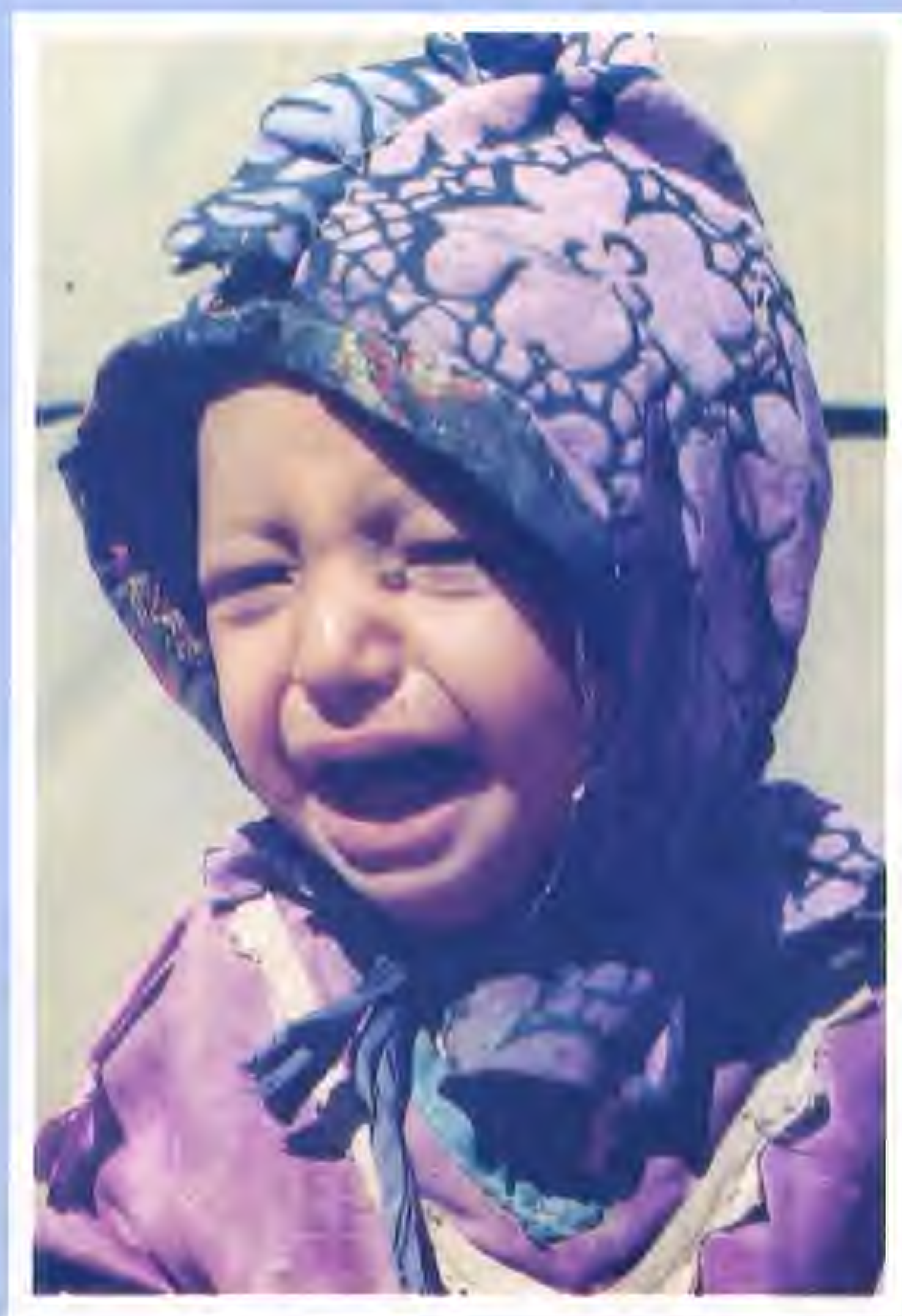
found for the peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem and the repatriation of the Afghan refugees to their home-land. These are only a few of the main factors which have increased the suffering and hardship of the Afghan nation and her people.

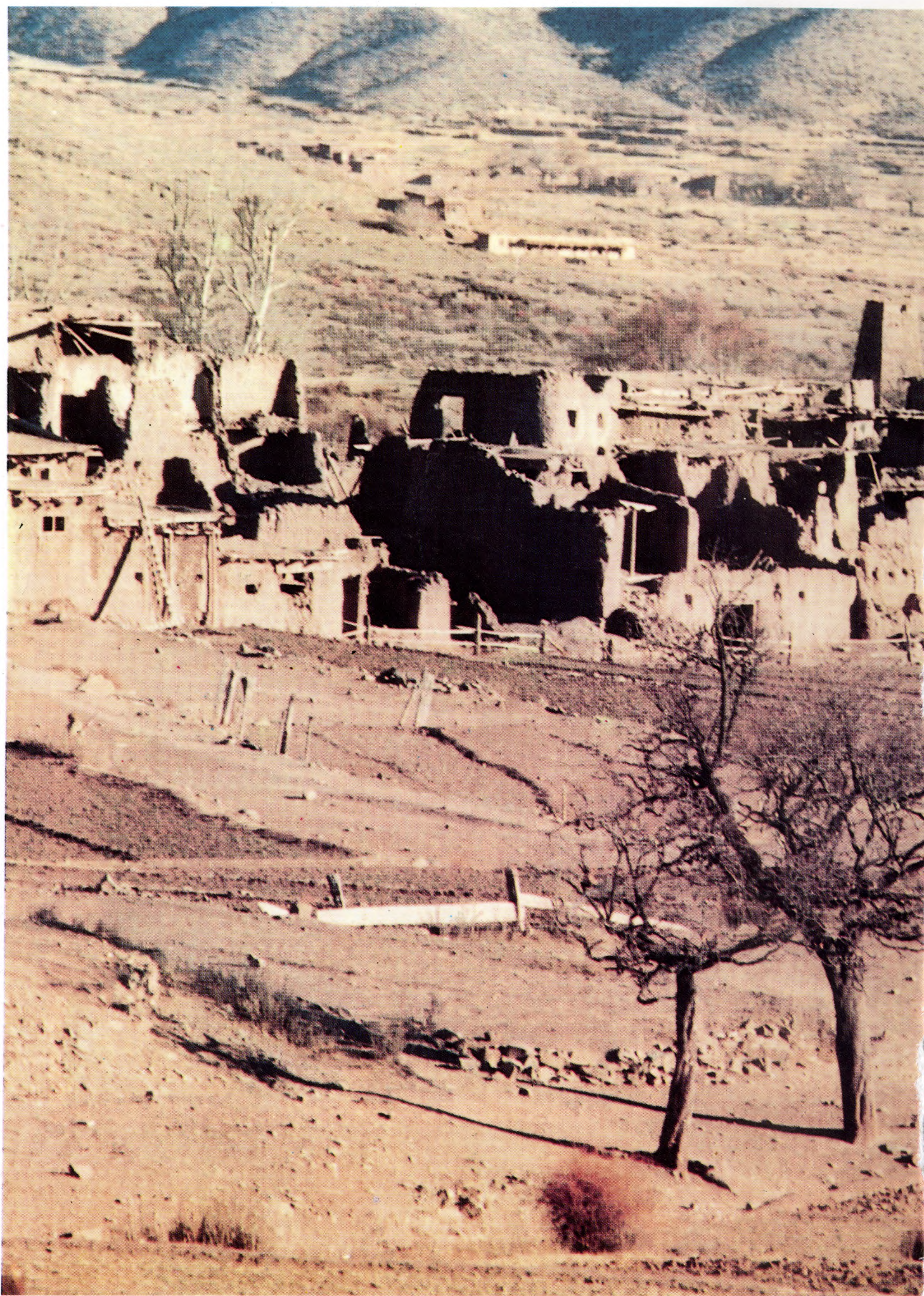
IT IS EASY TO RUIN BUT DIFFICULT TO CONSTRUCT:

The Soviet invasion on Afghanistan has not only produced social, political and economic problems for the people of Afghanistan but, most of the country side, (towns, villages and houses) have been ruthlessly bombarded and razed to dust which, requires sufficient time, financial resources and man power to be reconstructed.



Illustrations



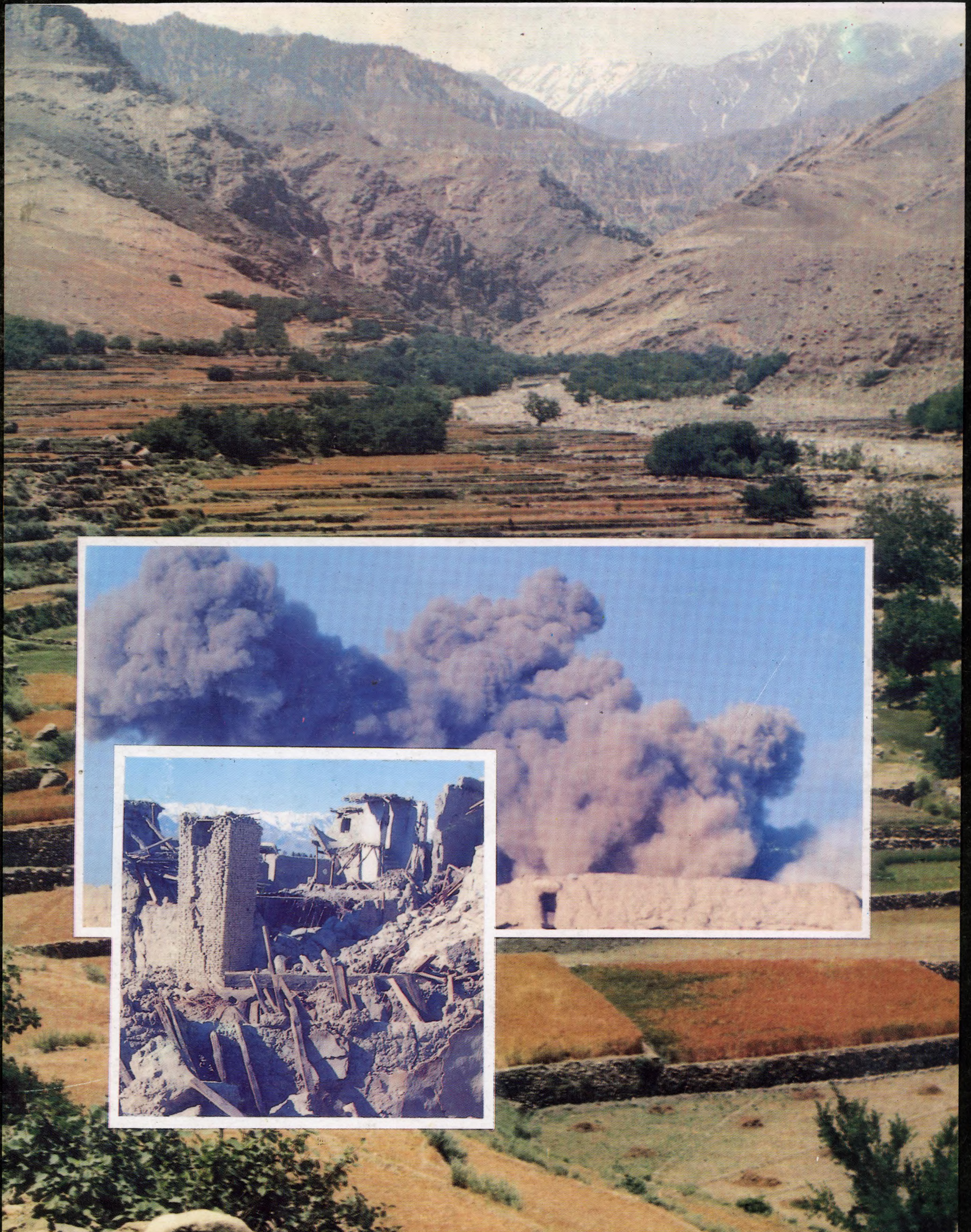


Nika Village, Paktia Province one of many villages, completely ruined in Paktia over 100 houses destroyed and all residents have left

AFGHANISTAN

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1990

THE COST OF FREEDOM



AFGHAN MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Sanction is given unto those who fight becasuse they have been wronged; and Allah is indeed able to give them victory. Those who have been driven from their homes unjustly only because they said: Our lord is Allah -- For had it not been for Allah's repelling some men by means of others, cloisters and churches and oratories, and mospues, wherein the name of Allah is often mentioned, would assuredly have been pulled down. Verily Allah helpes one who helpes him. Lo! Allah is Strong, Almighty.

The Pilgrimage (Holy Quran)

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